Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

   a) a message store for storing multimedia messages; and

   b) means for assigning a reference number to each message in said message store; and

   c) a plurality of data converters for converting messages in one medium to messages in another medium, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules and wherein each message and any message attachment to each message is accessible through said reference number.

2. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of data converters includes at least two selected from the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.

3. (Original) A system according to claim 1 further comprising means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

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a)   a message store for storing multimedia messages;

b)   a plurality of data converters for converting messages in one medium to messages in another medium;

c)   means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type; and

d)   means for assigning a reference number to each message, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules and wherein each message and any message attachment to each message is accessible through said reference number.

8.   (Original)   A system according to claim 7 wherein said plurality of data converters includes at least two selected from the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:

a)   storing messages of different types in a single mailbox; and

b)   assigning a reference number to each message; and

c)   automatically converting messages from one medium to another, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules and wherein each message and any message attachment to each message is accessible through said reference number.

10.   (Original)   A method according to claim 9 wherein said step of converting includes at least-two selected from the group consisting of converting text to speech, converting speech to text, and converting fax to text.

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11. (Original) A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:

    a)   storing messages of different types in a single mailbox;

    b)   automatically converting messages from one medium to another;

    c)   linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type; and

    d)   assigning a reference number to each message, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules _and wherein each message and any message attachment to each message is accessible through said reference number._

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15 wherein said step of converting includes at least two selected from the group consisting of converting text to speech, converting speech to text, and converting fax to text.

17. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.

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18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 7 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.

20.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.

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